



**NIFA Veterinary Medicine
Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)**

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
Form NIFA 2009-0001
OMB Control No. 0524-0046
Expiration Date: 11/30/2016

Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be submitted under the authority of the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

This form must be used for Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations to the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP), Authorized Under the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (NVMSA)

Note: Please submit one separate nomination form for each shortage situation. See the State Animal Health Official (SAHO) section of the VMLRP web site (www.nifa.usda.gov/vmlrp) for the number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

Location of Veterinary Shortage: Carter and Love Counties, Oklahoma
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area; must be a logistically feasible veterinary practice service area)

Approximate Center of Shortage Area
(or Location of Position if Type III): Junction of US Highway 70 and Interstate Highway 35, Ardmore, Oklahoma 73402
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: ☐ Moderate Priority ☐ High Priority ☒ Critical Priority

Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty (Choose only one Type)

☐ **Type I Shortage: Private Practice**
Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 80 percent time or 32 hr/week)

Must cover (check at least one)

- ☐ Beef Cattle
☐ Dairy Cattle
☐ Swine
☐ Poultry
☐ Small Ruminant
☐ Other: _____

May cover

- ☐ Beef Cattle
☐ Dairy Cattle
☐ Swine
☐ Poultry
☐ Small Ruminant
☐ Other: _____

☒ **Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area**
Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 30 percent time or 12 hr/week)

Must cover (check at least one)

- ☒ Beef Cattle
☐ Dairy Cattle
☒ Swine
☐ Poultry
☒ Small Ruminant
☐ Other: _____

May cover

- ☐ Beef Cattle
☒ Dairy Cattle
☐ Swine
☒ Poultry
☐ Small Ruminant
☐ Other: _____

☐ **Type III Shortage: Public Practice** (awardee obligation: at least 49 percent time or 19.6 hr/week)
Employer: _____ Position Title: _____
Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas:

- ☐ Food Safety
☐ Public Health
☐ Epidemiology
☐ Other: _____

Please describe the **importance and objectives** of a veterinarian filling this shortage situation as well as being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

This area is in south central Oklahoma and borders Texas to the south. The human population of the area is 57,000. Ardmore is the largest city with 24,300 people, but the Oklahoma City and Dallas/Fort Worth metro areas are less than 100 miles away for additional entertainment and shopping or weekend trips. There are many opportunities for the residents of this area to enjoy hiking, hunting, and fishing in the Arbuckle mountains and the many lakes and rivers. This area is rich in oil and gas and the income is above average for Oklahoma. This equates to a slightly higher socioeconomic client base. The 2,100 farms and ranches in the area are home to 73,000 cattle, 650 hogs, and 2000 sheep and goats. Most of the cattle are beef breeding herds, but there is some seasonal wheat pasture grazing and several small dairies. I practiced in the county east of here and know that there is a need for competent, caring food animal practitioners in this area. The residents are used to having food animal practitioners available. This position will require the practitioner to spend at least 60% of his/her time in food animal practice.

Please describe the **activities** of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

Beef cow/calf practice makes up the majority of the food animal work in the area, followed by stocker calf practice. The cow/calf practice provides year around work with a drop off in the summer months. The stocker practice is concentrated in the fall and winter, but there is also a fair amount of stocker grazing in the summer months on native pastures. There are many show pig producing herds in the area, so the practitioner should be willing and able to work with these producers to assist them. The area is home to many horse farms, so the practitioner will need to do some equine work. There are strong 4-H and FFA programs in the area and a veterinarian in this area must work with the students, sponsors, and parents involved in the organizations. Several of the veterinarians who have provided food animal services in this area for the past 30 years or more have or are in the process of retiring, so there is a definite need for someone to fill the void. The successful applicant for this position is expected to devote at least 60% of his/her time to food animal medicine.

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 100 words or less).

Four practices in the area have traditionally done the food animal work. Two of those have drastically reduced their food animal practice. A third practice has closed, but a veterinarian is doing a mobile large animal practice. The practice that did the majority of the food animal work has had one practitioner retire and another is in the process. The practices have had veterinarians work there for extended periods of time, but now it is critical that new food animal practitioners be recruited to take over the food animal practiced in the area.

Please describe the risk of this veterinarian position not being secured or retained. Include the risk(s) to the production of a safe and wholesome food supply and to animal, human, and environmental health not only in the community but in the region, state/insular area, nation, and/or international community (limit your response to 250 words or less).

One Health is being emphasized more and more, and the importance of veterinarians is evident in dealing with and recognizing diseases that can affect humans, domestic animals, and wildlife. Interstate Highway 35 bisects this area and is a major travel route for cattle and horses traveling through Oklahoma from Mexico and Texas to northern states and vice versa. Many cattle come to this area from the southeastern United States and Mexico for seasonal grazing. The potential for introduction of a foreign animal or highly contagious disease is high, and it is imperative that we have trained veterinarians in place to recognize and report these diseases. There is a lot of wildlife in the area and with the myriad of outdoor activities available there is the potential for people to be exposed to zoonotic diseases. A knowledgeable veterinarian is important to recognize these diseases in animals and alert public health or human physicians.

(Optional) If the nominator wishes to specify a service time for this shortage situation that is higher than the minimum required for the shortage type checked on Page 1, please specify the percent time in the box below (based on a 40-hour work week). Leave the box blank if the service time for this shortage situation is for the minimum percent time of the shortage type indicated.

60 %

Minimum Service time required for each shortage type

Type I: 80 percent time or 32 hours/week

Type II: 30 percent time or 12 hours/week

Type III: 49 percent time or 19.6 hours/week

SAHO nominator must check both boxes below in order for NIFA to consider this nomination for official designation

☒ By checking this box, I affirm that this form represents a nomination and is subject to NIFA review and approval.

☒ By checking this box, I affirm that it is my professional opinion that this is a bona fide food supply or public health-related veterinary shortage situation. I affirm due diligence has been invested to identify this area as a shortage situation of at least moderate priority (severity).

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name: Rod Hall, DVM

Title: State Veterinarian

Organization: Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food &
Forestry

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(Area code required)

Public reporting for OMB control number 0524-0046 is estimated to average two hours, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information, unless it displays a current valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to NIFA, OGFM, 800 9th St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.